

I recently acquired a cover bearing an early Machin perfined "F" (F10.01M) with a crest on the envelope of an "N" beneath a crown, addressed to a seedsman in Kent, A little research revealed no link between the perfin, envelope or addressee, so I put it in the Sales Packet, pricing it cheaply.

My wife used to run a Bridge Club when we were in Uxbridge and we still get some letters for the club. A few days after I had despatched the Sales Packet we received a letter extolling the virtues of The Cafe Royal as a venue for the Bridge Club's Christmas Dinner (they must have thought all Bridge Club members were rich!). The leaflet had the crest of The Cafe Royal, a crown over N suitably encircled by a seasonal holly wreath. Presumably at the time of my perfin The Cafe Royal was owned by Forte, recorded as using this perfin.

Which particular 'Royal' The Cafe Royal is named after to have the capital "N" as a logo I know not (Nicholas?). It's a bit beyond my pocket - but it illustrates the important principle of Murphy's Law - the identifying evidence for a cover will turn up once you no longer have it.

I doubt there is space in the Bulletin for all the examples of Murphy's Law that members know of.

